



**M I C H I G A N
A S S O C I A T I O N
F O R L O C A L
P U B L I C H E A L T H**

P.O. Box 13276 ♦ Lansing, Michigan 48901 ♦ (517) 485-0660 ♦ www.malphp.org
426 S. Walnut, 2nd Floor ♦ Lansing, Michigan 48933 ♦ (517) 485-6412 Fax

**Testimony to the
Health Policy Committee – Michigan House of Representatives**

**Provided by:
Meghan Swain, Executive Director
Michigan Association for Local Public Health**

May 21, 2013

Chairwoman Haines, Honorable Committee Members, Citizens, and Colleagues:

The *Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH)* supports **HB 4736**, amending the Public Health Code to include Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT).

Assuring treatment of sexual partners of persons with sexually transmitted disease (STD) has been a central component of public health's prevention and control of bacterial STDs in the United States for decades.

In 2012, there were 48,727 cases of Chlamydial infection and 12,770 Gonorrheal infections reported in Michigan. Adolescents and young adults, ages 15-24 years old, comprise the majority of those affected (77% of Chlamydia cases and 67% of Gonorrhea cases) with a state-wide trend of increasing Chlamydia infection in both females and males 20-24 years old. The prevalence of these sexually transmitted infections in this population can lead to complications that directly impact their reproductive health and future fertility and can lead to central nervous system disorders.

Public health and healthcare providers advise their patients with sexually transmitted diseases to notify their sex partners. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates the proportion of partners who actually seek evaluation and treatment in response to patient referral ranges from only 29% to 59%; thus, the spread will continue.

Pursuant to Section 333.2433 of Michigan's Public Health Code, PA 368 of 1978: *A local health department shall continually and diligently endeavor to prevent disease*, prolong life, and promote the public health through organized programs, including prevention and control of environmental health hazards; *prevention and control of diseases*; prevention and control of health problems of particularly vulnerable population groups; development of health care facilities and health services delivery systems; and regulation of health care facilities and health services delivery systems to the extent provided by law.

(over)

As such, Michigan's local public health departments receive Essential Local Public Health Services dollars from the Department of Community Health budget to screen and treat for STDs in order to prevent the spread and re-infection.

MALPH supports HB 4736 and recommends that all public health and healthcare providers have access and permission to administer EPT. EPT can reduce the risk of re-infection, prevent disease complications including fertility, pregnancy and childbirth complications, and central nervous system disorders, and reduce transmission to uninfected persons, all of which save valuable healthcare dollars.

On behalf of the 9.8 million people in Michigan, thank you for your time and consideration of this comprehensive and bipartisan legislation to protect Michigan's population.

###